

The White Pomeron, Color Sextet Quarks and Cosmic Ray Anomalies *

Michael G. Albrow

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory,
Batavia, IL 60510, USA.

Abstract

I introduce the critical pomeron theory (“white pomeron”) proposed by Alan White, with its prediction of excessive WW and ZZ production at the LHC especially by double pomeron exchange (DPE), which is a crucial test. This theory implies dramatic effects in cosmic rays, possibly explaining the knee and high E_T jet excesses. Some of the Ultra High Energy (UHE) cosmic rays may be “Superbaryons” made of color sextet Quarks, and most (all?) UHE collisions in the atmosphere may produce W ’s and Z ’s.

*(Talk given at 44th INFN Eloisatron Project Workshop; QCD at Cosmic Energies, Erice, September 2004)

At a Blois Workshop in 1989 Alan White [1] reviewed his ideas on the critical pomeron and confinement, one of the implications being strong (QCD) production of W^+W^- and ZZ pairs at sufficiently high energy. At the same meeting I talked [2] on “Double Pomeron Exchange from the ISR to the SSC”, referring to his prediction of “... dramatic... direct and strong W^+W^- and ZZ production by pomerons...” at the SSC. The SSC is not to be, but the LHC should have enough energy for this prediction to be well tested. A rule-of-thumb for the masses M_X which can be excited in DPE is $M_X \lesssim 0.05\sqrt{s}$ which is 100 GeV at the Tevatron but 700 GeV at the LHC. Thus the LHC is comfortably into the region where strong production of vector boson pairs by pomerons should be manifest and could be dramatic. The Tevatron has probably too low \sqrt{s} , but of course 100 GeV is just a rule of thumb and not a sharp cut-off, and given that we begin to have data there it is certainly worth a look [3].

In the first 200 pb⁻¹ of Run 2 data ($\sqrt{s} = 1960$ GeV) CDF has approximately 20 WW, WZ or ZZ candidates. This number is consistent with standard model expectations. Forward (high x_F) protons were not detectable with high efficiency \times acceptance, so a search for a diffractive signature can only use the associated hadron distributions for $|\eta| \lesssim 5.5$. This study is underway; some events look strikingly clean but it is too early to say whether there is any significance to this. A year from now we should have five times the data and a more sophisticated Monte Carlo study (including the very forward region). If the Tevatron data is inconclusive, the LHC should supply a definitive test.

The critical pomeron (critical meaning intercept = 1.0) plays a key role in White’s theory. It has two parts, a reggeized gluon and an infinite number of “wee gluons”. In QCD a leading order qq -scattering diagram by one-gluon exchange is “sick”, not being gauge invariant. To meet this requirement one adds other gluon exchanges and sums them up in a particular way to give a gauge invariant sum, the reggeized gluon. This carries color and is not yet a pomeron. In the BFKL pomeron the color is neutralized by a second reggeized gluon linked to the first by the rungs of a ladder. In the “white pomeron” the color is neutralized at large distance by a cloud of wee gluons, gluons that have no (or very small) momentum even in the infinite momentum frame. These wee gluons have the properties of the vacuum. They are directly responsible for confinement and chiral symmetry breaking in the theory and so, in a sense they *are* the vacuum.

Asymptotic freedom must be saturated to obtain the critical pomeron. This would require 16 color-triplet quark flavors. Of course we only know 6 (d,u,s,c,b,t). However higher color sextet Quarks would each count 5 \times in this sum, so a pair of such Q_S ’s, say $\{U, D\}$, will result in asymptotic freedom with the critical pomeron. The color sextet quarks Q_S have zero current mass, but a constituent mass at the electroweak scale, probably a few hundred GeV. They have a stronger color charge than triplet quarks q . They would have electric charge opposite to that of quarks, i.e.

$Q(U) = -\frac{2}{3}$. They can form “Superhadrons” such as $P_6 = [UUD]$ and $N_6 = [UDD]$. The N_6 is probably the lightest Superbaryon, hence stable, with a mass at the TeV scale (within a factor 2 ?), and would be a candidate for dark matter. It is strongly interacting (a SIMP) through diffractive processes, and could be a component of UHE cosmic rays detectable e.g. in AUGER. At low energies, way below the $Q_S\bar{Q}_S$ threshold, it behaves like a WIMP. Anomaly cancellation requires a pair of heavy Lepton doublets $\{L^1, \nu_6^1\}$ and $\{L^2, \nu_6^2\}$ or some other lepton sector. The ν_6 ’s would be another (WIMP) component of dark matter.

Supermesons are formed of $[Q_S\bar{Q}_S]$ giving e.g. $\{\Pi^-\Pi^0\Pi^+\}$ and η_6 . The $\{\Pi^-\Pi^0\Pi^+\}$ are composite zero-helicity components of $\{W^-Z^0W^+\}$ (they get “eaten” by massless $\{W^-Z^0W^+\}$ to give them their masses). The η_6 plays the role of the Higgs boson in electroweak symmetry breaking. There is no “standard model” Higgs in this theory! (The η_6 has rather different properties.) This form of symmetry breaking is similar, in some respects, to higher representation technicolor and, because of this, may be consistent with electroweak precision measurements. The difference is that no new technicolor gauge fields are needed.

The wee gluon cloud in the pomeron couples particularly strongly to the color sextet quarks. Their color charge is large and the number of gluons is large. And the color sextet quarks couple strongly to W and Z . Once above the electroweak scale, and into the realm of Q_S ’s, there should be prolific diffractive production of W, Z . At UHE cosmic ray energies (AGASA, AUGER) they may be produced almost like pions, with several in most events!

A diagram of W^+W^- pair production by DPE is shown in Fig.1. Fig 1b shows the striking $\gamma P Z$ vertex through a sextet Quark loop (Fig 1c). This photoproduction of Z would make very high energy ep collisions very interesting (ILC on a proton storage ring: Tevatron, HERA or LHC). Pomeron physics is difficult at an e^+e^- machine; how much of this sector can be addressed at the ILC itself (e^+e^-) has to be assessed.

Is there any evidence for the color sextet quark theory? To those who consider dark matter evidence for SUSY it is also evidence for this theory which has dark matter candidates! But of course we must first find dark matter particles. There are very significant anomalies in the rate of high E_T jets (“cores”) in experiments such as Chacaltaya and Kanbala [4]. A QCD Monte Carlo was tuned to jet data at fixed target and collider energies (including the $Spp\bar{S}$ and Tevatron). For cosmic rays with energies above $\sqrt{s} \approx 5$ TeV the jet rate for $\chi_{12} \gtrsim 1000$ TeV.cm exceeds the data by an order of magnitude, where χ_{12} is basically the product of the jets’ E_T and the jet-pair separation R_{12} . This seems to occur between Tevatron and LHC energies. Could these jets actually be high E_T W and Z ? There are also indications of an excess of

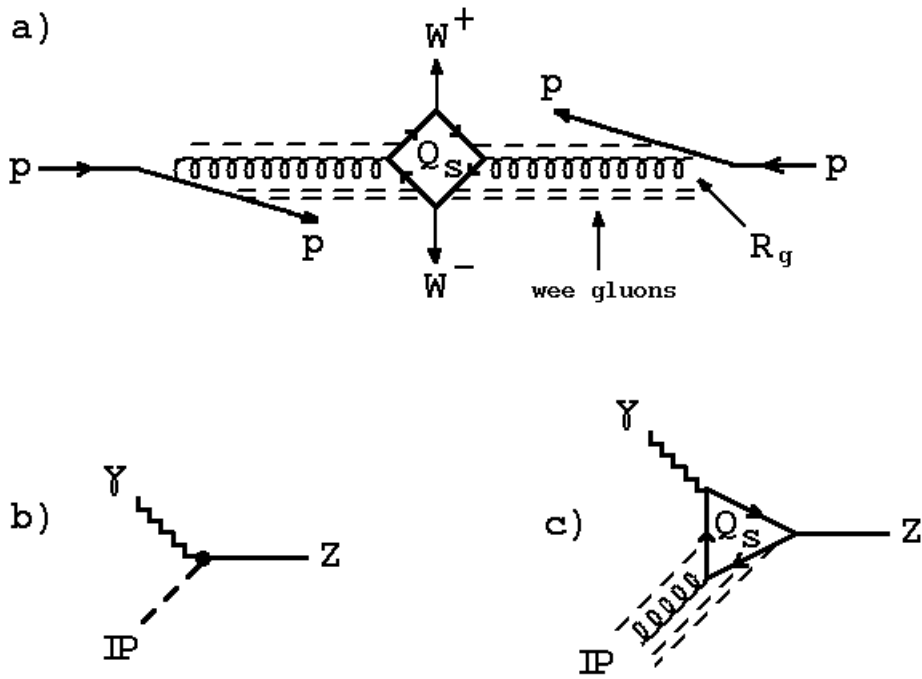


Figure 1: (a) Production of W -pairs by DPE through Q_S loop (b) γIPZ vertex (c) γIPZ coupling through Q_S loop.

jets at high E_T in CDF data, but the situation is unclear as the systematic errors are large, and D0 does not seem to see the same effect. It is also in a region where poorly known large- x gluons could be important. However there are (at least) two mechanisms giving such an excess in this theory. They might be anomalous (strongly produced) W, Z 's, and this may be testable in existing data. They might be due to a slowing down of the running of α_s as the scale Q^2 approaches the (non-perturbative) Q_S scale. (This α_s -slowing was actually “seen” in the CDF Run-I data [5] *under the assumption of the CTEQ4M pdf.*) However I want to emphasize that this possible jet excess, while intriguing, cannot at this stage be considered as evidence for *anything*. The knee in the cosmic ray spectrum around $E_0 \approx 3.10^6$ GeV, $\sqrt{s} \approx 2500$ GeV is however very well established and not understood. In White's theory this is about the energy at which W 's and Z 's start to be strongly pair produced, so the transverse profile of the atmospheric cascade broadens and more of the primary energy goes into neutrinos, both effects leading to an underestimate of the primary energy and hence a steepening of the spectrum [6].

Even though the Tevatron is probably at too low \sqrt{s} to see evidence for the white pomeron and its effects, I believe it is worth looking. The threshold would not be a θ -function. So far we have looked at only 200 pb^{-1} for $WW/WZ/ZZ$ and do not see a significant anomaly, though there are some intriguing events. Unfortunately we

do not have precision roman pots (on both outgoing beams and with good acceptance) to tag the p and \bar{p} . If we did one could even look for $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$ through missing mass, measure $M(WW)$ etc. Technically it would be possible to install such pots, and we looked into it, but it would require a few month shut-down, cost \approx \$0.6M and disturb the machine, so it would require a very strong case (5σ signal?). However LHC should be with us in 4 years, and CMS and perhaps ATLAS will have the ability to see the diffractively scattered protons in W^+W^- and ZZ events. If “White is right” there will be dramatic effects.

1 Acknowledgements

I thank Alan White for many discussions and for comments on this talk.

References

- [1] A.R.White, Nucl.Phys.B **12** (1990) p.190; A.R.White, Mod.Phys.Lett.A **2** (1987) p.397.
- [2] M.G.Albrow, Nucl.Phys.B **12** (1990) p.291.
- [3] A.R.White, “The Sextet Higgs Mechanism and the Pomeron”, ANL-HEP-CP-04-83, hep-ph/0409181; A.R.White, “Sextet Quark Physics at the Tevatron?”, ANL-HEP-PR-04-47, hep-ph/0405190, and references therein.
- [4] Z.Cao, L.K.Ding, Q.Q.Zhu and Y.D.He, Phys.Rev D **56** (1997) 7361.
- [5] T.Affolder et al., hep-ph/0108034, Phys.Rev.Lett. **88**:042001 (2002).
- [6] M.Boratav and A.M.Watson, “Cosmic Rays above 10^{14} eV”, hep-ph/0009469.